

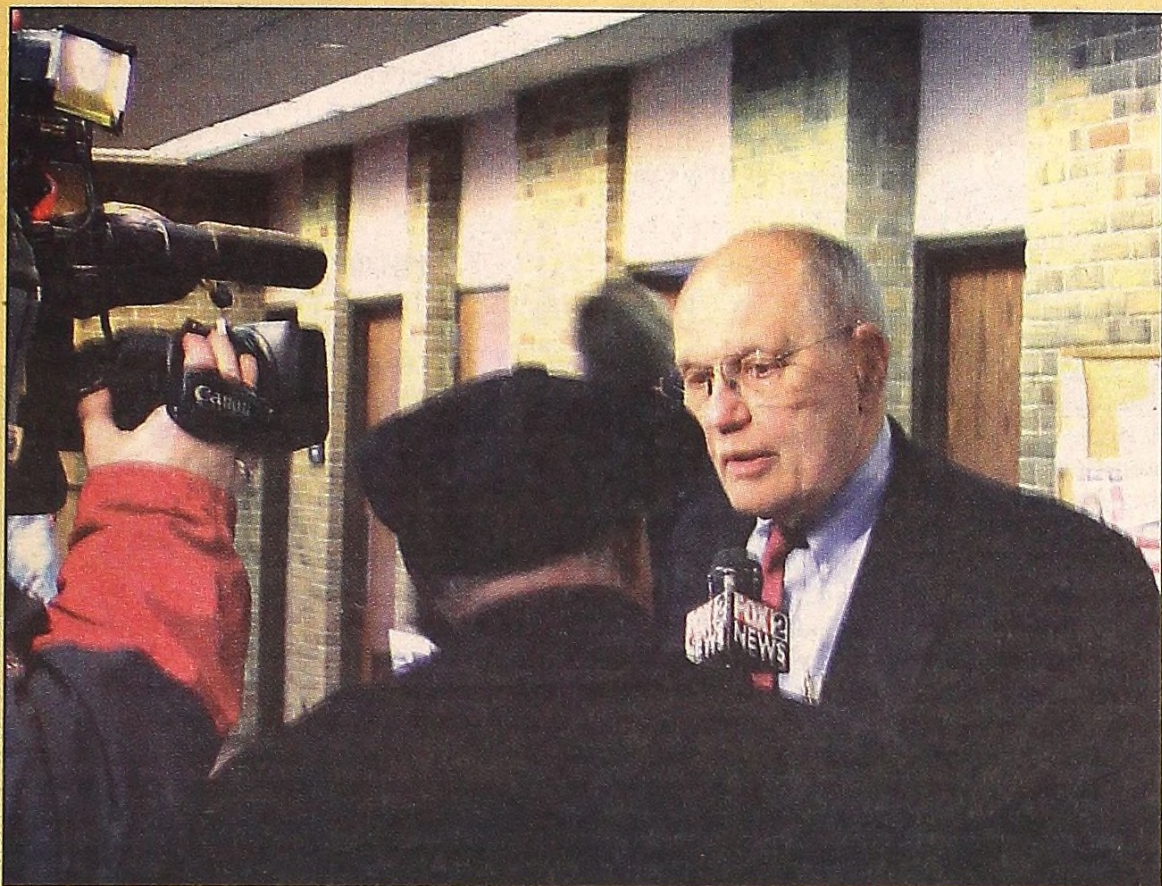
ROMULUS ROMAN

The Official Newspaper Of The City Of Romulus

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DUE

February 27, 2003



Congressman briefs chiefs

Congressman John Dingell (D-MI) visited Romulus City Hall Thursday to host a roundtable discussion about homeland security and emergency preparedness issues with area police and fire chiefs. Dingell briefed officials on the new homeland security spending Congress approved last week. See related story, page 6.

Noise reduction program nearly complete in city

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

Romulus residents may soon enjoy the coveted sound of silence.

Only five homes in the city remain incomplete in the Detroit Metropolitan Airport Noise Mitigation Program.

The program is expected to be complete late this year or early in 2004. Sound insulation is still needed in only five of the 330 homes in the initial program, according to Scott Roberts, director of the Noise Mitigation Program. The Residential Sound Insulation Program (RSIP) started in late 1997.

Roberts presented an update on the status of the program at a recent meeting of the Romulus City Council.

"They did mostly Huron

Township homes for the first few years due to the fact that 70 percent of airline departures are to the south," Roberts said.

Of the 330 homes in Romulus, 137 have had design visits from C&S Engineers, consultants for program management, design and construction management. "C&S is nationally known for sound insulation," Roberts said.

The RSIP designs acoustics treatments on a house-by-house basis with typical treatment including replacement windows and doors, attic insulation and heating and cooling systems. Overall cost of the Noise Mitigation Program, including communities other than Romulus, school sound insulation, residential acquisition and relocation, and the RSIP is about a \$127 million program, Roberts said.

Visteon incentives could be \$36 million

A public hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 4 at Van Buren Township Hall to discuss incentives planned for Visteon Corp. that could amount to as much as \$36 million in estimated public improvements on the site.

Visteon Village, scheduled for completion in 2004, will be a \$300 million development on property between I-275, Tyler, Ecorse and Hannan roads.

The township hopes to approve the development agree-

ment at the March 18 meeting.

The \$25 million to \$36 million, which is expected from the increase in the tax base in the township, will not be used not to reimburse Visteon for construction costs to buildings. Instead, the money will be earmarked for public improvements, according to Township Supervisor Cynthia King.

King predicted that the capture of tax dollars that will eventually go to Visteon would be

closer to the neighborhood of \$25 million to \$28 million.

"The \$36 million figure is if Visteon did everything planned as far as improvements," she said.

These improvements may include roadwork, drainage, storm water management, streetlights, sidewalks and American Disabilities Act improvements, such as elevators, ramps and

See Visteon, page 3

Man arraigned in hotel sex case

The leader of an Internet sex operation arrested at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel near Metro Airport in Romulus Jan. 20 was arraigned at 34th District Court Tuesday.

Robert Jackson, 57, of Hazel Park was arraigned on the charge of maintaining a house of lewdness, according to Romulus Police Lt. John Leacher.

On Monday, the Wayne County Prosecutor announced the charges against Jackson and two others, Barbara Steele of Jonseboro, GA, and Joyce Phaneuf, 44, of Largo, FL.

Leacher said prosecutors will extradite Steele and Phaneuf on the charges.

Jackson's preliminary examination is slated for March 26 at 34th District Court.

Leacher explained that the maintaining a house of lewdness charge is a rather obscure one, but it's still on the books and fits this case.

"The prosecutors thought we didn't have enough evidence to charge him with maintaining a house of prostitution. But the evidence did lead itself to a charge of maintaining a house of lewdness," he said.

"It's a little-known law, and they had to research it at length. That's why it took them longer than usual to bring charges against Jackson. It's against the law to do this, even if you're only taking money to pay for the room. We wanted to send the message that you can't come into Romulus and decide that you're going to rent hotel rooms for sexual activ-

ity," Leacher said.

Undercover Romulus police officers arrived at the hotel Jan. 20 after the hotel received an anonymous e-mail from the unknown mother of a 17-year-old who had received an invitation to the party at the Marriott.

The e-mail instructed the teen to look for a white Honda Accord near the entrance to the hotel. The room number for the party would be located on the dashboard of the car. Romulus police found the car with the number and subsequently obtained a search warrant and made the arrests.

For \$15, invitees were able to have sex with women. The sex acts were allegedly videotaped and posted on an Internet Web site, according to investigators.



Members of the 94 East Comedy Improv Troupe, top to bottom: Scott Donnelly, Craig Allen, John Thiede and Julie Morris.

Comedy troupe puts fun back in funny

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

Romulus firefighter John Thiede has been making people laugh ever since he was a little boy.

"He was always funny," says his sister, Patti Bousho of Newaygo County. She recently drove three hours to see her brother perform in Romulus.

"He used to recite the alphabet frontward and backward for a quarter, a dime or a nickel — whatever he could get from you."

Now Thiede is part of the 94 East Comedy Improv Troupe, which performed Feb. 15 at Progressive Hall in Romulus. A portion of the proceeds went to Romulus charities.

See Improv, page 3

OBITUARIES

KLINE, Ruth

Ruth Kline, 76, of Lincoln Park died Jan. 11.

Among her survivors are her children, Darrell (Sharon) Kline and Cynthia (Dave) Jackson; a brother, Robert Korzowski, and many grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

PAWILICA, Anthony S.

Anthony S. "Tony" Pawlica, 58, of Adrian, died Feb. 7.

Among his survivors are his wife, Ellen; children, Lisa (Ron) Forbes, Michelle (Randy) Klapp, Barbie (Mark) Carrick and Sheri (Nick) Liogghio; brothers, Leo and Joe; sisters, Anna, Lillian and Dorothy, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park.

SMITH, Lawanda

Lawanda Smith, 69, of Taylor, died Jan. 25.

Among her survivors are her children, Bill (Brenda) Smith, Don (Debi) Smith, Kathy (Randy) Cullen, Eutonna (Don) Ayers, Connie (Bob) Mauro and Kimberly (Dominic) Barbaro; four brothers; three sisters, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

CZAPLICKI, Mary

Mary Czaplicki, Mary, 88, of Carleton, died Jan. 31.

Among her survivors are her sister, Louise (Stanley) Wawrzyniec; brother, Arthur (Doris) Modzelewski, and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass was celebrated at St. Stephen Catholic Church in New Boston.

Interment was at St. Stephen Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

ELDRIDGE, Virginia Tina

Virginia Tina Eldridge, 78, of Belleville, died Jan. 3.

Among her survivors are her children, Franklin Eldridge, Barbara Parks, Lana (Jack) Slone and Emily (Rodney) Ramos; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

Services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

MANIER, Judy Marie

Judy Marie Manier, 64, of Romulus, died Feb. 10.

Among her survivors are her husband, William R. Manier, Sr.; sons, William R. Manier, Jr. and Kevin Lee Manier; two siblings; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

LAKE, Ervin

Ervin J. Lake, 84, of Romulus, died Jan. 29.

Among his survivors are his son, Robert (Karen) Lake and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

CLARK, Marguerite J.

Marguerite J. Clark, 83, of New Boston, died Jan. 27.

Among her survivors are her children, Bonnie (Bob) Boeringer, Ronald (Liz) Clark and Rodney (Leah) Clark; sisters, Joyce and Aurlie; grandchildren; great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

PENNINGTON, Elza, H.

Elza H. Pennington, 86, of Romulus, died Feb. 20, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Among his survivors are his sons, Larry (Sue) Pennington of Romulus, Leslie (Mary Jane) Pennington of Oxford, Ohio and Robert (Nella Mae) Mitchell of Gilbertsville, Ken.; a daughter, Celeste Elliot of Jasper, Ala.; a brother, Donald Pennington of Cleveland, Ohio; a sister, Frances Stanley of Columbus, Ohio; eight grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services were at Bethany Bible Church in Belleville where Mr. Pennington was a member, with the Rev. John Losen officiating.

Mr. Pennington was a member of the Primetimers Senior Citizens and was retired from General Motors Fisher Body Plant.

Interment was at Romulus Cemetery.

Arrangments were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home.

SEXTON, Donna Marie

Donna Marie Sexton, 51, of Belleville, died Feb. 22 at Arbor Hospice.

Among her survivors are her children, Brian P. Sexton of Livonia and Lori M. Sexton of Belleville; a nephew, Richard J. Ward, Jr. of Tenn.; nieces Gina and Jamie Nalli of Southgate; an aunt, Mary Caimotte of Redford; an uncle, George Lombardi of Eastpointe; several cousins, and one grandson, Steven E. Sexton.

Services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Father Thomas H. Cusick officiating.

BROOKS, Kenneth William

Kenneth William Brooks, 50, of New Boston, died Jan. 15.

Among his survivors are his sister, Mag (Frank) Migda; a niece and nephew, and his loving partner, Theresa Fick.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment with military honors was at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

GESSERT, Alvin

Alvin Gessert, 76, of Huron Township, died Feb. 4.

Among his survivors are his wife, Nancy; daughter, Donna (Fred) Watkins; stepchildren, Neil Mazur and Denise (Mark) Steffen, and a brother, Gil Gessert.

Funeral services were at St. John Lutheran Church in Waltz.

Entombment was at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

HOSBURGH, Richard J.

Richard J. Hosburgh, 60, of Romulus, died Feb. 14.

Among his survivors are his beloved partner, Anna Quillen; children, Nicole, Samantha, Richard and Scott; a brother, Tommy Hosburgh, and a granddaughter.

Services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment with military honors was at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

WOJCIK, Rose

Rose Wojcik, 92, of Van Buren Township, died Feb. 16.

Among her survivors are her sons, Richard Wojcik of Belleville and Leonard Wojcik of Grass Lake; sister, Jean Nowicky of Warren and Cecelia Lash of Detroit; five grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services were at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Romulus with Father Alexander J. Wytrwal of St. Stephen Catholic Church in New Boston officiating.

Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery in Detroit.

SLOAN, Daisy

Daisy Sloan, 73, of Sumpter Township, died Feb. 16 at home.

Among her survivors are her husband, Bill Sloan; her children, Woodrow (Vickie) Sloan of Belleville, Janet (Jim) Gierman of South Lyon, Ron (Yvonne) Sloan of Belleville and Carolyn Kay (Mark) Robson, also of Belleville; a sister, Grace Sloan of Lexington; brothers, Virgil Herman (Wilma) Stegall of Morehead, Ken. and Clayton (Dianie) Stegall also of Morehead; 16 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Sloan was a member of the Belleville Lighthouse Church.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor Keith Jackson officiating.

Interment was at Fraley Cemetery in Elliotville, Ken.

OSMUN, Evelyn C.

Evelyn C. Osmun, 85, of Avon, formerly of Farmington, died Feb. 10 in Indianapolis.

Among her survivors are her daughter, Martha (Lawrence) Amprim of Belleville; a son, Stephen R. Osmun of Avon, Ind.; a sister, Mae Clement, also of Avon; seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor Pamela Kail officiating. Interment was at Rosehill Cemetery in Eaton Rapids.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

CRIFE, Dorothy

Dorothy R. Cripe, 77, of Van Buren Township died Feb. 17 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center in Wayne.

Among her survivors are her husband of 45 years, Edward Cripe; her daughter, Bonnie Cook of Cheboygan, and four grandchildren.

Interment was at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

MAZE, Lucretia (Betty) M.

Lucretia (Betty) M. Maze, 91, of Tawas City, formerly of Romulus, died Feb. 11.

Among her survivors are her children, Wesley Maze of Westland, Roger (Ruth) Maze of Beaverton, Carole (Walter), Goeckel of Gladwin and Myra Giannini of Tawas; grandchildren, Shelly Harding, Walter Goeckel, Sheila Hielmann, Richard Goeckel, Dennis Giannini, Jr., Nannette Franklin, William Maze, Dawn Golus and David Maze, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

THETFORD, Laura J.

Laura J. Thetford, 52, of Belleville, died Feb. 13 at Oakwood Hospital.

Among her survivors are her husband, Mark S. Thetford; children, Holley (David Da'illeboust) Sollinger of Belleville and Corney (Jason McConlough) Sollinger, also of Belleville; her mother, Margaret Schuler of Belleville; a sister, Cassandra Vaugh of Chicago, and six grandchildren.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Belleville and the Astral Rebekah Lodge.

A celebration of life service will be scheduled in April.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

FAGEN, Linda Susan

Linda Susan Fagen, 50, of Erie, died Feb. 11 at St. Vincent Hospital in Toledo, Ohio.

Among her survivors are her children, Michael Brandon Stratford of Southgate and Jennifer Lynn Stratford of New Boston; her mother, Dolores (Dael) Beegan of Belleville; a sister, Susan I. (James) Mettert of Westland, and a nephew, James R. Mettert, also of Westland.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

HORSTE, Violet Margaret

Violet Margaret Horste, 92, of Belleville, died Feb. 16, in Livingston, Mich.

Among her survivors are her children, Marilyn Copp of Belleville, Barbara A. (Robert) Fawcett of Howell and David (Cathy) Horste, also of Belleville; a brother, Harvey (Kay) Novak of Livonia; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Horste was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville, the September Days Senior Citizens and the Garden Club.

Services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Father Thomas H. Cusick officiating.

Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

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Mothers thank police for curbing drunk drivers

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

For every mother who has lost a child to a drunk driver, there are dozens of police officers trying to make the roads safer.

Romulus Police Ofc. Daniel Czajkowski was one of several area officers honored by the Wayne County Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for making a large number of drunk driving arrests in 2002. The organization presented the awards at the annual Lifesaver Awards ceremony last week at the Detroit Athletic Club.

Czajkowski made 15 arrests last year for drunk driving or driving under the influence of drugs.

"Ironically, he was off work for six and a half months due to serious injuries sustained when his patrol car was struck by a semi-truck being driven by a man under the influence of drugs," said Ike McKinnon, former

Detroit chief of police. "He aggressively enforced OUIL (Operating Under the Influence of Liquor) laws before and continues to do so now."

McKinnon presented several of the Lifesaver awards as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award to Jenny Lozano, Wayne County Chapter MADD director.

"This lady lost her son to a drunk driver in 1988 and has come to be respected by a number of people in the community. She became community coordinator in 1993 and chapter administrator in 1994," McKinnon said.

McKinnon is conducting research for a book, "In the Line of Duty," that details cases in which Michigan police officers have been killed. While doing research, he said he was surprised by the large number of officers in Michigan killed by drunk drivers.

That's another reason why officers like Czajkowski want to keep intoxicated drivers off the



Romulus Police Ofc. Daniel Czajkowski, left, with his uncle, Sgt. Barney Czajkowski, head of the OUIL (Operating Under the Influence of Liquor) unit of the Wayne County Sheriff Department, and Rommel Saleh of the sheriff's department. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) honored Daniel Czajkowski and Saleh for their high number of drunk driving arrests last year. Photo by Pam Fleming

road.

Other area officers who received Lifesaver awards included Gene Taylor of

Belleville; Charles "Chip" Bazy of Van Buren Township; Ryan Strong and Matthew Spunar of Wayne; Kenneth Percin of

Westland; Justin Chmielweski of Northville; and Rommel Saleh of the Wayne County Sheriff Department.



Phyllis Adkins, left, principal of Cory Elementary School in Romulus; Kara Pluff, a first-grade teacher; MEEMIC representative Bethann Byorke; and Kristy Mitchell, MEEMIC Foundation director, celebrated a \$2,500 grant to the Cory reading program. Mitchell said the foundation had a large number of applications and that the Cory "Read with Me" program met the foundation goal to make a major impact on students. Pluff wrote the grant and designed the reading program.

Teacher makes reading more than requirement

Reading will be at the forefront of special activities at Cory Elementary School in Romulus this spring, thanks to a grant awarded to one of the teachers at the school.

Kara Pluff, a first-grade teacher at Cory, recently received \$2,500 from the MEEMIC Foundation for the Future of Education, headquartered in Auburn Hills. The foundation awarded the grant to enhance the Cory "Read with Me" program.

Pluff designed the program to inspire children to become life-long readers. The program pairs students with adults and puts them in theme settings where they can settle in to share a good book. The program will run from March to June. Students will receive four or five books purchased through the Reading Is Fundamental program (R.I.F.).

Students will receive four or five books purchased through the Reading Is Fundamental program (R.I.F.).

The first "Read with Me" event will feature a Saturday read-along camp and book giveaway. Students will read and be read to by teachers, parents and volunteers from River of Life Church. Students will also select two books for their personal collections.

The second "Read with Me" activity is set for April and will be a reading picnic, or "readnic."

Students, parents, teachers and volunteers will read under the Cory Pavilion and students will again select books for their personal collections.

A third event late in the spring semester will be a "Reading at the Beach" event. The cafeteria and gymnasium will be decorated by parent volunteers to resemble a beach. Students will bring beach clothes, towels, sunglasses and blankets and select two books for summer reading.

Pluff chairs the school improvement program, which has organized similar programs around math and science skills.

The MEEMIC Foundation for the Future of Education, a non-profit foundation established in 1992, provides grants to Michigan schools and educators for innovative programs. MEEMIC is an insurance company that caters to education employees.

Visteon - Hearing set March 4

FROM PAGE 1

widening of doors.

Township board members approved a 12-year, 50 percent tax abatement for Visteon last October. The trustees have scheduled a second work/study session on at 3 p.m. March 3 at township hall.

Those in attendance at a Feb. 3 meeting included representatives from McKenna Associates, planners; Fahnstock & Co. financial consultants; Howard and Howard bond attorneys; Plante & Moran auditors; Steve Pugsley, township planning and zoning administrator; Bryce Kelley, planning and development director; and Susan Ireland, executive director to supervisor King.

Pugsley also serves as executive director of the new township

Local District Financing Authority (LDFA) for the Visteon project.

"This is basically a vehicle that's available for local governments to use," King said.

The township will have a 30-year capture on tax dollars, King said.

A bond will be sold, which will be paid back during the 30-year period, she explained.

"Obviously, we want to get the best interest rate on the bond that we can," King said.

"We have to make the bond payments whether we capture enough tax dollars or not," she said.

If the capture of tax dollars from Visteon moving into the area is not enough, the township will have to use money from the general fund to make the bond payments.

Improv - March show slated

FROM PAGE 1

Other members of the troupe include Craig Allen, a native of Romulus and resident of Garden City, who also works as a magician; Julie Morris of Trenton; and Scott Donnelly of Allen Park.

The troupe has been together since August, performing at clubs throughout the western Wayne County and downriver areas. Their next performance is set for 7:30 p.m. March 8 at a fundraiser at the P.L.A.V. Hall, 438 Ford Ave. in Wyandotte.

Tickets are \$12 which includes a spaghetti dinner served from 4 to 7 p.m.

The four met while taking classes at the Second City improvisational school in downtown Detroit. Thiede and Allen were in a class together and are the original members of 94 East Improv.

"A lot of people are afraid to get involved in comedy shows

because in stand-up comedy, they pick on people.

But if people are willing to engage themselves in our show, we have fun with them," Donnelly said.

"Every show is a learning experience," Allen said.

"And that's what's so cool about improv," Donnelly added.

"It's always different. You can't think about it or you can't do it."

Morris studies journalism at Wayne State University in Detroit and works at a local Target store as a music, movies and book specialist when she's not on stage. Donnelly quit his job as a youth pastor in November to do full-time comedy.

The young comedians say they are drawn to the unpredictability of improvisation.

"There's nothing like being on stage and not knowing what's going to happen," Donnelly said.

Music In The Park funding awaits legal opinion

Heather Connor
Staff Writer

Uncertainty about the meaning of a state law has left the source of funding for the Music in the Park concert series in doubt. The series of concerts has attracted hundreds to downtown Belleville for more than a dozen years.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) officials have asked the organization legal counsel to determine whether the group can legally continue to fund the summer concert series. The DDA board members tabled a request from the Belleville Area Council for the Arts for \$3500. Board members will reconsider the request at the March 19 meeting.

The arts council requested funds to support the 15th season of the Music in the Park program, a series of 10 concerts scheduled for Sunday afternoons in Victory Park in Belleville. In a letter to the DDA, the council said \$3500 does not cover all of the expenses for the program, and the group has filed grant requests at the local Meijer Thrifty Acres and Wal-

Mart stores.

The DDA budget currently includes \$3,000 earmarked for the Music in the Park program.

City Manager Steve Walters said legal opinions are circling regarding the legality of DDA boards using captured taxes to fund projects that are not "brick and mortar." The 1975 state statute that created the groups prohibits DDA boards from funding projects not authorized as a purpose under the statute, he said.

Toby Leis, chairman of the DDA, said he asked Steve Hitchcock, attorney for the DDA, to research the statute and present revised language for the DDA policy at the next board meeting. Any language change would eventually need the approval of the Belleville City Council.

Board member Mike Foley asked whether DDA funding for literature that promotes Belleville would interfere with the statute.

Walters said the statute generally permits any expenditure to promote the downtown, but prohibits spending DDA money on things like cash subsidies or

other incentives to attract business.

Walters said most DDA boards have moved beyond bricks-and-mortar projects and concentrate on downtown promotions.

Board member David Brown made a motion to approve the art council request contingent upon Hitchcock's findings.

Brown said he wanted to show as much support for the council as the law permits, but withdrew his motion after other board members expressed their support.

"Music in the Park has become a wonderful tradition in the city," said board member Barbara Miller. "It's a very hard-working group."

Chamber hosts county executive

Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano will speak at the March business luncheon of the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce. The luncheon is slated for noon March 18 at the Romulus Marriott Hotel, 30559 Flynn Dr. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with reservations needed by 2 p.m. March 14.

Ficano took office in January after spending 18 years as Wayne County sheriff.

In that department, Ficano managed a \$115 million budget and was responsible

for more than 1,300 employees.

A graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Detroit Law School, Ficano is a member of several chambers of commerce in Wayne County and many law enforcement, professional, civil rights and civic organizations.

Tickets to the luncheon are \$13 for chamber members and \$15 for nonmembers.

For reservations, call the chamber office at (734) 326-4290.

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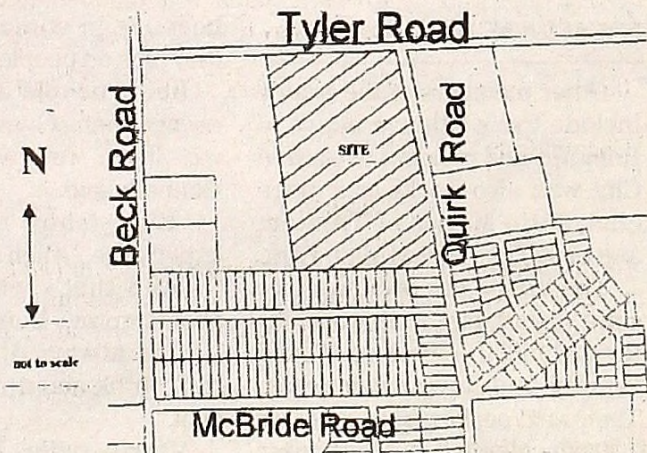
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday March 26, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.** to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, as amended, to amend the zoning map by rezoning parcel number **V125-83-062-99-0001-000 from M-1 (Light Industrial) to R-1B (Single Family Residential)**. This property is located on the south side of Tyler Road between Quirk Road and Beck Road.



Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 27, 2003

Publish: February 27, 2003
March 13, 2003

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE 2003 BOARD OF REVIEW

To the taxpayers of the City of Romulus: The Board of Review will meet in the Romulus City Hall, (Lower Level) Community Room, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174 on the following dates and times by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll.

Meeting dates are as follows:

	Residential
March 10, 2003:	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
March 11, 2003:	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

	Commercial/Industrial
March 12, 2003:	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Review is by appointment only

Residents and Non-Residents alike may appeal by (1) making an appointment to appear before the Board OR (2) in writing (personal appearance is not required). The Board of Review MUST receive all written appeals no later than March 12, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Property owners may appoint and authorize a representative to appear on their behalf. All Representatives or Agents MUST submit proof of authorization to act on behalf of the property owner as a prerequisite to appeal to the Board of Review.

To schedule an appointment, please call the City of Romulus, Department of Assessment at (734) 942-7520 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Publish: February 20, 2003
February 27, 2003
March 6, 2003

Friends of Rouge seek volunteers for study

If you were the sort who liked to catch frogs and toads in a jar as a kid, then Friends of the Rouge has the perfect project for you.

The group is looking for volunteers to survey wetlands in their neighborhood for frogs and toads. Volunteers are asked to attend training sessions at locations throughout the Rouge River Watershed. A local training session is slated for 10 a.m. to noon March 8 at Van Buren Township Hall.

Those interested in volunteering for the survey are asked to register for this training session or another session by calling the Friends of the Rouge Public Involvement Department at (313) 792-9621 or by e-mailing picoordinator@the.rouge.org.

All materials for the survey will be provided at the training session and preregistration is required.

Volunteers need no prior experience to participate in the survey. During the training sessions they will learn to distinguish the nine different frog and toad breeding calls. Volunteers are then asked to visit a survey block on at least two evenings each month from March through July. Surveying simply involves listening and writing down which species are heard and not heard. Volunteers

are encouraged to survey in teams.

Friends of the Rouge have been training volunteers to survey for frogs and toads since 1998. Volunteers who participate become more attuned to their local wetlands as they listen and learn what species live around them. Results from the survey help Friends of the Rouge to better understand the health of the watershed.

During the past two years, Van Buren Township residents made 53 observations at 13 different survey locations in the township along the Rouge Watershed (north of I-94). The diversity and number of species heard indicate that some healthy habitats remain in the township. Having volunteers make observations at the same locations each year can help the group assess how it is doing in protecting area natural resources.

A five-year study by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources completed in 2000 expressed concern that the numbers of green frogs and leopard frogs were declining. Both the Friends of the Rouge and the MDNR surveys in 2001 showed that this trend may be reversing.

For more information, contact Sally Petrella of the Friends of the Rouge at (313) 792-9621 or Dan Swallow, Van Buren Township environmental director, at (734)

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA FEBRUARY 26, 2003 7:30 P.M. VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HALL 46425 TYLER ROAD

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MINUTES: Approval of minutes from January 22, 2003 meeting as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING

ITEM # 1

CASE

03-02-RZ

TITLE:

THE APPLICANT IS REQUESTING TO REZONE PARCEL NUMBER V125-83-039-99-0013-000 FROM R-1B (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO RM (MULTIPLE FAMILY) THE NORTH SIDE OF TYLER ROAD, WEST OF MORTON TAYLOR, EAST OF BELLEVILLE ROAD.

LOCATION:

- A. Opening of the public hearing.
- B. Chairperson informs the audience of the rules for a public hearing.
- C. Presentation by applicant.
- D. Receipt of public comment.
- E. Planning Commission Discussion.
- F. Closing of Public hearing.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

Publish: February 27, 2003

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD FEBRUARY 3, 2003 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48714.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.

Present: LeRoy D. Burcroff, William A. Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak
Absent: None
Excused: William Wadsworth

Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak by Burcroff to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-049

2. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Crova to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held January 27, 2003.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

3A. No action taken.

03-050

3B. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to introduce an amendment to the official zoning map and the Romulus Code of Ordinances by rezoning 3.62 acre parcel located on the east side of Hannan Road, north of Ecorse Road (DP# 026 99 0015 700) from C-2 (General Business) to RMH (Residential Manufactured Home District).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla.
Nays - Miller, Romak.
Motion Carried.

03-051

4A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Romak to direct the administration to forward a communication to Congressman John Dingell requesting a grade separation for the CSX railroad in the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-052

4B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Reverend George Howard Brown.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4C. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to accept the Chairperson's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-054

5A. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to introduce an ordinance to amend the Romulus Code of Ordinances by revising Chapter 2, Article IV, Section 146 which would allow Board and Commission members to waive compensation.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-055

5B. Motion by Crova, supported by Romak to adopt a resolution allowing resident taxpayers to file an appeal of their assessments by mail.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-056

5C. Motion by Romak, supported by Miller to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Sanitary Sewer Agreement between the City of Romulus, the City of Westland and Huessin A. Hadi for the property located at 27415 Van Born Road.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

11. Motion by Crova, supported by Romak to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: February 27, 2003

Congressman urges funding for crisis 'first responders'

Pam Fleming
Staff Writer

Congressman John Dingell (D-Mich.) visited Romulus City Hall last week to brief area police and fire chiefs about federal funding available to help fight terrorism and improve emergency preparedness. Police and fire department personnel are known as "first responders" in crisis management and rescue situations—and have a daunting responsibility in the event of a catastrophic event.

Dingell hosted the roundtable discussion in Romulus at the invitation of Mayor Alan Lambert. The congressman reviewed new homeland security spending approved in Washington and took questions from the chiefs about the needs of their respective communities. He said law enforcement departments need special training to fight terrorism, for which the government has earmarked millions of dollars.

"The training of our first responders affects the safety and security of our people," he said.

According to Dingell, the U.S. government must take a comprehensive approach to ensure that local police and firefighters are prepared for a terrorist attack.

"We must provide local law enforcement and firefighters the necessary equipment and resources to provide a full

response to a terrorist event," he said. Dave Allison, fire chief of Romulus, said, "We need consistency in training so we're all using the same game plan. Some guidelines from the federal government would be helpful."

Finally, Dingell said the government must provide the public health infrastructure to care for victims of a terrorist attack.

"I think this is the beginning of a program of working together," he said.

Dingell noted several appropriations relevant to local fire and police departments, including the \$1 million Downriver Mutual Aid Data Network. The network is a wireless communications system designed to link all participating communities with the Michigan State Police and other law enforcement agencies, emergency service providers, prosecutors, courts and other Wayne County agencies.

The University of Michigan Health System and Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn each received \$450,000 for programs to prepare public safety workers for terrorist attacks and natural disasters, according to Dingell. Even so, the federal government has not lived up to the promises it has made, he said.

The Bush Administration promised \$3.5 billion in new money for first responders, according to Dingell. But legislation so far has provided just \$800 million in new money for the First Responders Initiative. Dingell said the administration

counted \$2.7 billion appropriated in fiscal year 2002 as part of the \$3.5 billion promised.

Dingell said local emergency workers need more cash.

"It's a good beginning, but it's not enough to enable you to do your jobs properly," he said to the chiefs.

Dingell said he wants to meet again

with area fire and police chiefs to discuss funding for antiterrorist training.

"Talk to my office. Let us help you," he said. "We can see that your grant application is in the proper form so that it doesn't get rejected. And we can follow the grant through the application process to see that it doesn't run into a logjam, which can happen."

We must provide local law enforcement and firefighters the necessary equipment and resources to provide a full response to a terrorist event.

**Congressman
John Dingell**

BOARD OF REVIEW - CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN FOR 2003 ASSESSMENTS

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS
OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, on the following dates:

March 4, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

March 10, Monday
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

March 11, Tuesday
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To review property assessments for 2003. Taxpayers/property owners may file an appeal of assessment(s) to the Board of Review in WRITING without personal appearance. Letters of appeal must be received on or before March 12, 2003.

Those taxpayers wishing to appeal in person, please call the Township by March 10, 2003 at 734.699.8946 to set an APPOINTMENT to meet with the Board of Review on any of the above dates.

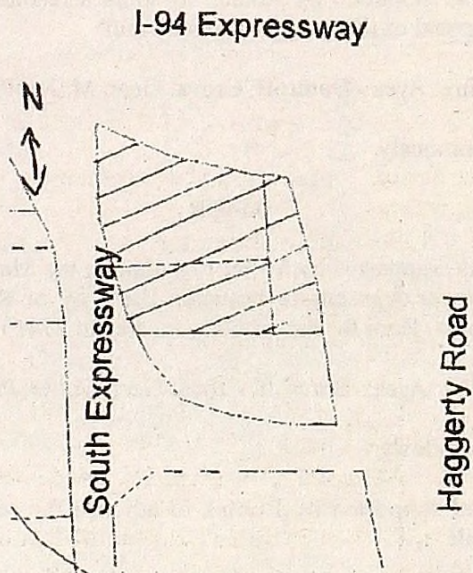
Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: February 13, 2003
February 20, 2003
February 27, 2003

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday March 12, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.** to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, as amended, to amend the zoning map by rezoning parcel number **V125-83-094-01-0212-004 and V125-83-094-01-0212-009 and V125-83-094-01-0212-007 from R-1C (Single Family Residential) to C-1 (General Business)**. This property is located east of Old Haggerty Road between S-I94 Service Dr. and Haggerty Road.



Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

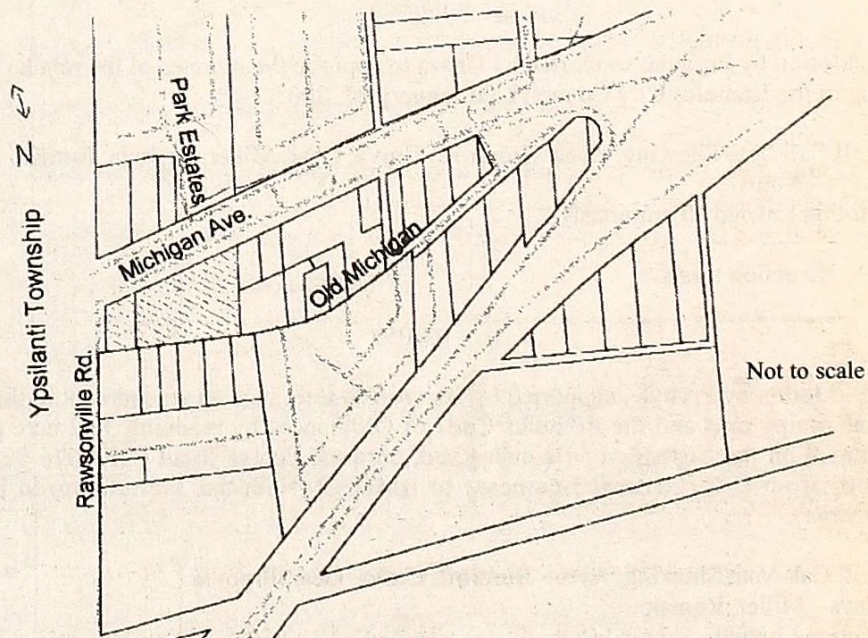
In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 7, 2003
Published: February 13, 2003
February 27, 2003

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday March 12, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.** to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, as amended, to amend the zoning map by rezoning parcel number **V125-83-022-99-0010-000 and V125-83-022-99-0011-000 from R-1C (Single Family Residential) to C-1 (General Business)** located on the south side of Michigan Avenue, east of Rawsonville Rd, west of Austin Road.



Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 7, 2003
Published: February 13, 2003
February 27, 2003

OPINION

All the eggs in one basket

When a community goes through a tragedy like the fire that destroyed the barn at the Maybury State Park farm, it's only natural for many groups to want to help out.

It's an admirable gesture, too. After all, the farm may have been located geographically in Northville Township, but it occupied a special place in the hearts of residents throughout western Wayne County and beyond. Calls of offers to help have flooded in from places as far away as Belleville and Westland, Novi and China, Mich. as well as places closer to home.

They have, however, come in to many different places and that may be a problem.

While it's laudable that community groups and residents would want to start up funds to help replenish the farm, it makes more sense to have an already established organization take the helm of the fundraising efforts, an organization like the Northville Community Foundation.

The foundation officials reacted quickly to set up a separate endowment fund to pay for not only the rebuilding of the barn and the replacement of the animals, but to help with the ongoing funding of the farm, too.

The foundation reacted quickly because it could; it's set up for just such an event. It's a registered 501(c)3, which means it's been certified by the state and donations to it are tax-deductible. Donations there also receive more oversight than hastily set up bank accounts or fund drives.

Shari Peters, executive director of the Northville Community Foundation, had already many of the steps in place, too. The foundation expressed interest in setting up an endowment years ago, and

See **Maybury**, page 8

Residents can't 'Banke' on Wayne County help

The residents of the Ravines subdivision in Northville Township received the answer they were hoping for last week, when the Northville Township Trustees decided to file a lawsuit against a developer to force it to complete several "punch list" items left lingering as the development was completed.

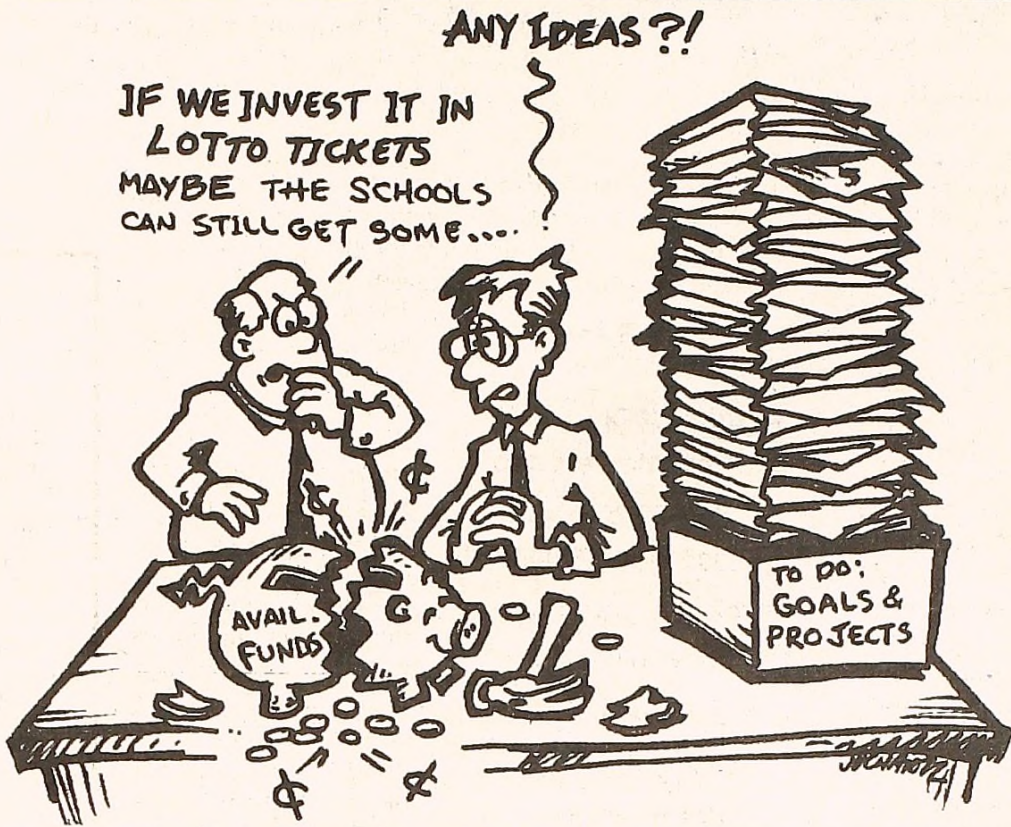
It's exactly the type of help residents should be able to expect from their local government, even though it's unfortunate that the situation has deteriorated to the level of litigation.

It's not a decision the township board members – or any elected body, for that matter – would enter into lightly. Litigation is expensive, and the elected officials are not just using the taxes of affected residents, but all residents.

Even so, it was the right decision. The Fairchild Development Co., which is the focus of the suit and the ire of the township and residents alike, allegedly promised the same 4-acre parcel of land to the township – and the residents, through their agreement with the township – and Wayne County. When the county asked for the land, the developer then individually sued each resident to get the land back. The county also filed suit against Fairchild, but later teamed up with the developer to try to get the land, according to court records.

Although that suit was dismissed in favor of the township and resi-

See **Bankes**, page 8



Chief is 'model' of behavior

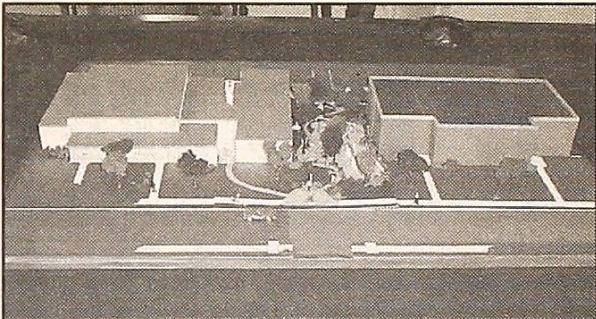
When the members of the Northville school board approved the renovation of the Northville Community Center into an expanded facility that would better serve the community and the senior citizen population, it was just the right time for the decision.

The old senior center isn't getting any larger, after all, and the senior population in the city and township is. It's also an advantageous time because the city and township can use Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to help fund the redesign, and the three governing bodies are working at an unprecedented level of cooperation.

More to the point of this column, however, is the fact that the timing is right because the model of the center may have had one too many close calls with destruction.

Anyone who has seen the model, which was constructed by township resident Jim Nield, who serves on the planning commission and the senior advisory board, knows it's not just a model. It's a hand-crafted, meticulously designed scale of the community center and the proposed additions, complete with landscaping, trees and a few cars in the street. Nield put many hours into the design and building of the model. It's a labor of love and it deserves a place of prominence in the center, when it's completed.

Now, the model has done its share of traveling. Nield has shown it to members of the school board, the Northville City Council, the Northville Township Board of Trustees, the Senior Advisory Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission. It's been photographed by newspapers, ours included, as Nield has tried to promote the renovation idea.



Jim Nield's model of the new Northville Community Center had a close call last week.

And last Thursday, the model ran into the force of nature that is John Werth, the Northville Township police chief.

Well, he ran into it, actually.

See **Model**, page 8

Starting off with a good breakfast

OK, you guys know what I am talking about. Anytime a good-looking redhead leans close and whispers something to you, it has to be good. So, when the saucy redhead who waits tables at Bode's Corned Beef House leaned across the counter and whispered, "Have you seen the new menu?" I paid close attention.

On the front of the menu, owner Richard Meacham wrote that he was turning back the clock about five years on many prices. It was one way, he explained, to help people cope with today's tough economic conditions.

For a restaurant, reducing menu prices to stimulate business, as opposed to using coupons, is unusual. Yet, the concept is time-tested. When car sales slump, rebates are offered. When retail sales go in the tank, prices are lowered. Even government, at least the Republican portion of it, understands the concept and offers economic relief in the form of tax cuts.

Needless to say, I watch with interest the way Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the legislative Republican leaders are slogging through the state budget morass. The governor will submit a budget in the next couple of weeks. So far, she maintains

that she is "not interested" in increasing taxes. That is good to hear, because taking money away from the people whose spending habits stimulate the economy is not good economic practice.

So, what is the answer to the state budget mess? Darned if I know. We send people to Lansing every two years to figure that stuff out. What I do know is that Gov. Granholm has an opportunity to do something that Ronald Reagan and John Engler would envy. She can actually streamline the state government.

Reagan and Engler are true foes of Big Government. Reagan, however, was unable to get the Democrat-controlled congress to help him reduce the size of the federal government. Engler had more success in Michigan, but the political climate would not allow him to go too far.

Today, the political atmosphere is different. Cuts must be made. Two billion dollars has to be slashed from current spending levels in order to keep the budget in balance. The question today is not "If?"

See **Breakfast**, page 8

JOURNAL

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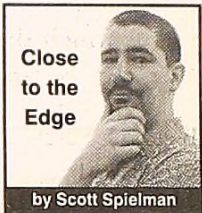
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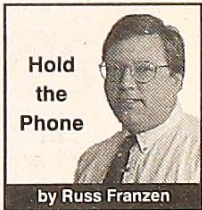
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Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman



Hold the Phone

by Russ Franzen

Bankes - Only township aids residents

FROM PAGE 7

dents last month, the friction between the parties has continued. Township officials say the developer hasn't lived up to the original bargain by providing bypass lanes and deceleration lanes, putting a final coat of asphalt on the interior roads, providing landscaping and other issues.

By going to court, the township board hopes to not only protect the residents of the Ravines subdivision, but also other residents if further incidents between the township and developers should occur.

Just as the township officials are doing their job in representing the residents, their county commissioner, Lyn Bankes, apparently isn't.

Both sides have lamented her lack of attention – or in some cases, a lack of response – in this issue, which has drawn more than \$50,000 from the pockets of voters in her district.

Local officials and the Wayne County executive are talking about increased cooperation and building bridges out to the sometimes neglected western portion of the county. Apparently Bankes didn't get that memo.

Maybury - Foundation is best

FROM PAGE 7

recently received a renewed interest after those talks broke down.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the nation as a whole and the smaller communities in general learned just how much they could give.

Even in these difficult economic times, it's hard not to sympathize with the many schoolchildren and other youths who visited the farm, or remember fondly the tickle

of a goat feeding from an upturned palm. It's likely that the public will rise to the challenge of raising funds to replace the farm and their voices will probably be heard as state officials decide the future of the beloved site.

It just makes sense, when that happens, to send all the money to the same, safe place.

(That address is: Northville Community Foundation, 321 N. Center St., Suite 130, Northville, MI 48167)

Clarification

The Journal misreported the amount of money allocated by Northville Township for Russell Design, Inc. for the renovation of Millennium Park. Russell's firm was paid \$4,500 for the design work, not \$20,000 as was reported in an editorial last week. We regret the discrepancy, and any inconvenience it may have caused.

Model

FROM PAGE 7

Nield placed the model in front of the dais last Thursday because the township board proposed to set aside \$64,000 in block grant funds to pay for the renovations. It was still there when Werth came to read a resolution honoring Lt. Gary Batzloff, who retired from the department after more than 28 years of service.

Anyone who has seen Werth,

who stands about 6 feet, 6 inches tall, knows he's an imposing figure. The first time I shook hands with him, in fact, I had red finger marks across my arm up to my elbow.

In his defense, it wasn't an intentional bump. In fact, it was just a glancing brush from his hip that sent the model flying into the air where it spun gracefully before it landed on the carpeted floor with a muffled thump.

A slight gasp was heard during the brief flight of the senior center model. The township board

members leaned forward simultaneously to see how the model would land, as if they were a row of marionettes all attached to the same board. Then they all looked up at Nield, who was in the audience, and already out of his seat. Plenty of muffled laughter followed.

Fortunately, the model was built to withstand the rigors of travel, and only suffered a few broken trees and a dislodged car. If the actual senior center itself is constructed as sturdily, then it'll be a great facility that will serve

the community for another 50 years.

I'll probably hear about writing this column. I know Werth good-naturedly advised me against it and I'll probably have to pay rigorous attention to speed limits whenever I cross over into Northville Township.

But I couldn't resist. It's an unwritten rule that police chiefs and fire chiefs aren't just remembered for their many acts of bravery and community service. There's always one story that pops up at retirement parties

and roasts – ask former Plymouth Township Police Chief Carl Berry about the dog incident, for example – that's of the humorous nature.

By then, maybe township employees will have another name for it. They told me last week – in strictest confidence – that they have a title for similar encounters with their own force of nature.

They call it the Godzilla effect.

Breakfast

FROM PAGE 7

or "How much?" It is "Where?"

I am a little disappointed that both sides are falling into their old patterns of petty posturing.

The Democrats want legislators to give back a previously-awarded pay raise and Republicans threaten to sell the Governor's Residence on Mackinac Island. I hope that both sides will forget about their silly symbolism and get serious. This is a rare opportunity to restructure the entire

state government. It can be redesigned to work efficiently and within its means.

Perhaps the governor and legislative leaders can meet soon for breakfast at Bode's. Aside from the symbolism, the lower prices

would help keep a lid on legislative breakfast expenses. Then they could, uh, hash out some of their budget differences.

And you know what they say. A healthy breakfast is a great way to start a new day in state government.

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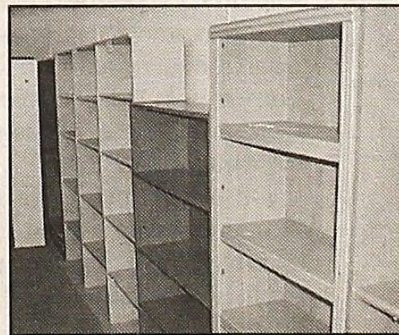
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At long last WWII sailor finally receives documentation of heroism

Bryon Martin
Staff Writer

Even as the Kamikazes were closing in from above, the sailors aboard the U.S.S. Cofer and U.S.S. Liddle were under strict orders not to fire at any aircraft. Allied fighters and bombers would be passing overhead during that first wave of the invasion at Leyte Gulf, so Navy superiors had placed the ship on red-alert and ordered their guns silent.

Looking through a pair of binoculars atop the flying bridge of the Cofer, Ensign E.J. McClendon saw the distinctive profile and markings of the Japanese suicide planes as they sped down an are toward his ship. Forget orders, he told the gunners. Those are Kamikazes.

After a brief argument, the gunners opened up.

"We put him in the drink," McClendon says, with neither relish nor regret, recalling the story some 58 years later.

"I don't know what was happening over on the Liddle but they never fired a shot. That plane slammed into the bridge and killed or wounded near everybody."

It was Dec. 7 1944, and the Cofer and Liddle were the front-most ships in the U.S. Navy inva-

Every time they
told me
'It's in process'
or 'Someone else has it'.
So 15 years ago
I gave up.
I stopped writing letters.

sion at Ormoc Bay, filled with landing craft and troops headed for the beaches and a toehold on the Philippine mainland.

As Boat Officer on the Cofer, McClendon was the highest-ranking officer of able body after the Kamikaze attack. As the Liddle began to drift, McClendon responded with a series of decisions that helped save the lives of fellow seamen, Navy hardware and, according to a letter he received earlier this month, to earn him the Bronze Star for Combat Distinguishing Service.

Issued by Adm. V.E. Clark, chief of naval operations, the letters are the written citations that usually accompany military medals.

McClendon received the Bronze Star for his actions at Ormoc Bay in the first few years

after World War II. But the letter and certificate describing the events of that day never came, at least not until this month.

"These things all come from a (Navy) office in St. Louis," McClendon said. "For 20 years I wrote a letter every fall asking them for the citations."

"Every time they told me 'It's in process' or 'Someone else has it'. So 15 years ago I gave up. I stopped writing letters."

A few weeks ago, an envelope from the Navy arrived at his Plymouth home. Inside was the letter that describes the acts at Ormoc Bay that earned McClendon his Bronze Star and helped save the day.

"Within minutes of the hit on the Liddle, Cofer attempted to come along side to (assess) the damage," the letter reads.

"Those Kamikazes came in with their wings full of fuel," McClendon said. "So when it hit the Liddle, it blew up and sent a fireball across the deck."

That fireball scorched boxes of ammunition stowed on deck, sparking another explosion filled with ammo.

According to Navy records, "All officers except five and many enlisted men were killed and wounded" on the Liddle. McClendon remembers there



E.J. McClendon, at left, shows his citation of bravery from the U.S. Naval Department, to Plymouth Rotary member John Gatfield, center and Pete Stone. McClendon, who spoke to his fellow Rotary members about his war experiences, received a Bronze Star for bravery during WWII, but the documentation arrived only this month from Washington.

being 33 dead and wounded, and five men intact.

"We couldn't see anybody on board for the first few passes. The boat was drifting and couldn't pick up the landing craft," it had dropped off, he said. "Then a sailor came out on deck. He was pacing back and forth and saying 'Oh my God. Oh my God.'"

"Ensign McClendon knew what had to be done," the letter

states. "He quickly decided to launch one of his boats with five volunteers in the water to put emergency officers aboard the Liddle.

Among those volunteers was McClendon's roommate, the ship doctor, who spent nearly 20 hours operating on wounded sailors aboard the Liddle.

See Hero, page 10

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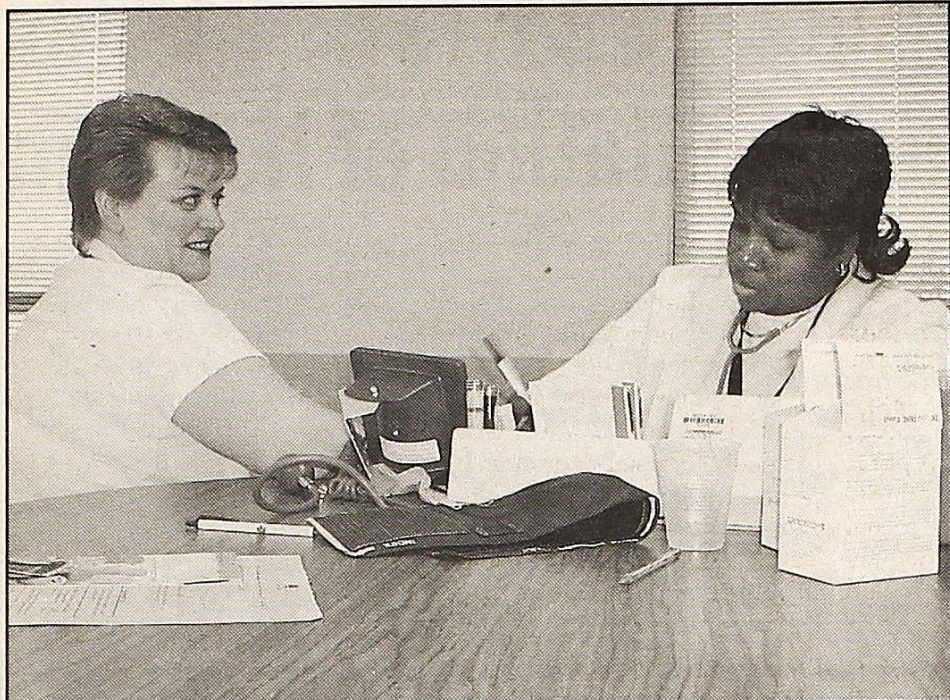
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Well aware

Van Buren Township Supervisor Cindy King has her bone density, blood pressure and cholesterol screened by Kay Ravizee at the Feb. 20 Senior Health Fair at the September Days Senior Center. Nurses and medical staff from Oakwood Health System provided the screenings for a nominal fee to area seniors. The senior center on Tyler Road in Van Buren Township provides many services year-round to area seniors at little to no cost. For more information call September Days at (734) 699-8918.

Hero

FROM PAGE 9

While the doctor worked, McClendon used the Cofer to recover landing craft from the Liddle, lashing them to his ship to pull them back to port or a bigger ship.

"Ensign McClendon's quick thinking, superb leadership and steadfast devotion to duty reflected great credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service," the letter says.

McClendon fought for the Navy from 1943 to 1946. He began his tour off the coast of North Africa, supporting Allied operations in the deserts of Ethiopia. Later, he and the rest of the Cofer crew steamed through the Panama Canal, across the South Pacific and into a lead position in the invasion at Leyte Gulf.

After the war ended, McClendon went home to Oklahoma to resume the course of study that would lead him to practice medicine, earn advanced degrees and, eventually, a teaching position at the University of Michigan Medical School.

A longtime Plymouth resident, McClendon made his greatest mark on the Plymouth-Canton community as a member of the school board. During his first

term as an elected member, the rest of the board voted him president, an honor that no board has repeated since.

After years of distinguished service to district, school officials honored him by naming the Harvey Street board offices in his honor following a renovation and expansion in the late 1980s.

Today, McClendon remains active in the schools, the Plymouth Rotary Club and other community groups.

McClendon said he received other medals after the war, but like his Bronze Star, they didn't come with certificates and citation letters.

Now that he has the Ormoc citation, McClendon has a renewed desire to recover all the outstanding paperwork owed to him.

"I'm not sure what's coming, but I think there will be others," he said, including one for his role in saving sailors left adrift after their boat was hit. McClendon said he helped lift up wounded from the water to shipmates waiting to treat them onboard.

"I think that's what they gave me the medal for," he said, acknowledging that it also might have been for a shrapnel wound suffered in a different battle. He's not sure. He never got the citation.

"That's the important part," he said. "Those letters tell precisely what you did."

Tax review interviews set

Scott Spielman
Editor

Across the nation, people are frantically looking for receipts and getting their finances in order.

It's tax time again, and that means that 2003 Notices of Assessment will soon arrive in mail.

The cities of Wayne and Westland have set aside days for property owners to dispute their tax assessments beginning in the middle of March.

Wayne City Manager John Zech said assessments would be sent to homeowners March 7. The Board of Review members will meet for an organizational meeting on March 14, and begin listening to petitions on Monday, March 17. They'll hear com-

mercial and industrial properties on Monday and residential requests beginning on Tuesday, March 18. An appointment is required.

The City of Westland will mail out assessments next week and the city Board of Review members will begin hearing petitions on March 10.

They'll hear residential requests first and commercial and industrial claims on March 14.

Wayne Finance Director Tom Norwood said residential properties increased in value an average of 7.4 percent last year, although the increase in taxable value is limited to 1.5 percent, the rate of inflation.

For questions or to schedule an appointment in Wayne call (734) 722-2000. In Westland, call (734) 467-3160.

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Belleville Downtown Development Authority OK's traffic study

Heather Connor
Staff Writer

Belleville Downtown Development Authority (DDA) members voted 8-1 to move forward with a traffic study of Main Street, awarding the contract to Mid-western Consulting of Ann Arbor at a cost of \$24,880. The study is scheduled for completion by June 3.

The DDA received eight proposals ranging in price from \$24,000 to \$71,000. Chairman Toby Leis said \$30,000 set aside

in the DDA budget for a pedestrian island on Main Street will pay for the project, saving the island for implementation at a later date.

Board member Mike Foley voted against the study, saying the city doesn't have enough money to make improvements that the study might recommend. He said the city invested in a traffic study eight years ago but never implemented any of the proposed changes. By the time funding is available for changes, he said, the study will be outdated.

Foley said changes needed along Main Street could cost as much as \$300,000.

City Manager Steve Walters said the city planned to do a traffic study four years ago, but cancelled the \$15,000 share.

Leis said traffic engineers would analyze traffic patterns throughout the city suggest changes to the board. He said the study would help the DDA prioritize infrastructure needs during budget talks. Not all of the recommended changes would be done within the next year, Leis said,

and the information in the study will be valuable for several years.

Board member Bob Baker said that not everything proposed in the study would lead to a costly expenditure.

City Manager Steve Walters said the study would provide a logical order for gradual changes over the next several years. The goal is to make Main Street friendly for commuter and shoppers, he said. Technology used for traffic studies has advanced over the last several years to include sophisticated traffic-

counting equipment and computerized models of the city available on the Internet, making the study an ongoing tool, he said.

Walters said major intersections of Main Street are scheduled for evaluation, as well as 17 specific elements the city has asked engineers to evaluate against public input. Walters said traffic engineers are required to make an interim report when traffic counts are complete. They will present a draft study before making their final report in June.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 18, 2003

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Herman, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Elg, Environmental Director Swallow, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Zoning Administrator Pugsley, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of ten (10).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to open the public hearing to present and discuss possible projects for the fiscal year 2003-2004 Community Development Block Grant Program. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Planning and Zoning Administrator Pugsley for an explanation. Administrator Pugsley stated this is the second of two public hearings regarding the fiscal year 2003-2004 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Administrator Pugsley stated the three national objectives for projects are: to benefit low/moderate income persons, prevent or eliminate slum and/or blight and to meet urgent community needs. The list of proposed projects to be funded are: \$93,867 for (ADA) Americans with Disability Act (Greenways Phase One); \$18,133 for the Fire Department (the local match of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant); \$11,000 for Senior Services (Senior Center Staffing); \$15,000 for Planning (Geographical Information System (GIS) Mapping); and \$15,000 for Program Administration. The total funding for the fiscal year 2003-2004 is \$153,000. This year's funding amount is lower than last year due to reformulation of funds by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Trustee Jahr asked Administrator Pugsley if any additional public comments were received since the first public hearing. Administrator Pugsley stated none related to the addition or deletion of any of the proposed projects had been received.

Trustee Hart stated Senior Services had been added to the proposed project list.

Clerk Payne stated these are some of the last Federal monies returned to local communities.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Jahr moved, Payne seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

MINUTES: Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of February 3, 2003, as amended for typographical errors. Carried.

Payne moved, Herman seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2003, as amended. Corrections for typographical errors and specifically under "Correspondence" page 2, paragraph three "has proven invaluable" should read "has provided valuable". Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Philip LaJoy, State Representative for the 21st District introduced himself and stated he welcomes comments from the Township Board and residents. Representative LaJoy may be contacted at the following toll free telephone number 1.866.LaJoy21.

John Sullivan, Wayne County Commissioner for the 11th District gave a brief update on Wayne County. Commissioner Sullivan may be contacted at 313.224.0944.

A letter from a resident thanking Director Kelley and the Building Department staff for their help with a home builder issue.

An email from an individual thanking Director Elg and the Public Safety Department for allowing them to tag along on a recent ice rescue training exercise.

A press release from the Fred C. Fischer Library announcing a free storytelling program with storyteller, Laura Pershin on Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. For additional information call the library at 699.3291.

A letter from U.S. Senator Carl Levin in support of providing funding to the Police Corps program in response to Director Elg's letter seeking support for this funding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the proposed projects for the Community Block Grant funds for the fiscal year 2003-2004 in the amount of \$153,000 as presented. Carried.

Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the reappointments of Joy Ann Ferris, Ken Askew, Beverly Jenkins, Loretta Speaks, Keith Johnston and Bob Thorne to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire February 28, 2004. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to approve the 2003 SMART Municipal Credit Contract in the amount of \$25,897 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2003-05 urging Congress to provide Michigan its share of Federal Transit Funding and for greater funding for bus projects. Carried.

Hart moved, Herman seconded to approve the Letter of Understanding and Agreement to the clarification of the Comcast Franchise Renewal Agreement and authorize the Supervisor to execute the document. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee By-Laws. Carried.

Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to adopt Resolution 2003-06 to amend Building and Trade Permit Fee Schedules with an effective date of March 3, 2003. Carried.

Jahr moved, Herman seconded to postpone Resolution 2003-07 the Public Safety Millage Renewal to the March 4, 2003 Board of Trustees Meeting. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the February 18, 2003 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next Work Study Session Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2003 will begin at 3:00 p.m.

The Van Buren Township Board of Review will be conducted on March 4, 10 and 11, 2003 to review property assessments for 2003. Call 734.699.8946 by March 10, 2003 to schedule an appointment to meet with the Board of Review. Taxpayers/property owners may file an appeal of assessment(s) in writing without personal appearances. Letters of appeal must be received on or before March 12, 2003.

On Saturday, March 8th and Saturday, March 15th a children's sewing classes will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum. In addition, the quilt display will begin on March 1st and run through March 31st. Contact the museum at 697.1944 for additional information.

To commemorate February as Black History Month, Van Buren Recreation Department will present storyteller, LaRon Williams on Friday, February 21, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, February 23rd a trip to the African American Museum will leave at 1:00 p.m. from the Community Center. A free family movie night will be held on Friday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m. Registration will begin on Monday, March 3, 2003 for the Summer Camp programs. For additional information on these and other programs contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

On February 28th the Belleville Chamber of Commerce Auction will be held at the Woodlands of Van Buren.

On Tuesday, March 4th the Belleville Rotary will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Eagles Hall on Beck Road.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Herman seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Publish: February 27, 2003

SPORTS

Inkster tops River Rouge in Mega tournament

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Inkster Vikings continued their impressive roll through the Mega Red conference Friday night when they topped River Rouge in the first round of the Red and White tournament.

Coach Steve Brooks said the game was a lot closer than he would've liked, but in the end the Vikings were triumphant, 63-61.

In fact, the Vikings found themselves in an unfamiliar position during the first half of the game. They had to rally from behind.

River Rouge took a 15-12 lead after the end of the first quarter, and a 31-28 lead into half time.

"It's the first time we've gone into the half and not been ahead," Brooks said.

The Vikings fought back in the game, but River Rouge continued to maintain its lead. They had a one-point advantage at the end of the third quarter, which set the stage for an exciting final quarter.

The Vikings were up by four with time running down, and then got fouled. It looked like they'd be able to seal the victory, but they missed their free shots and River Rouge gained the momentum.

Inkster fouled them, and the Panthers made their shots to make it a single-possession game.

They drove down to their side of the court and took three shots, but each bounced off the rim. They corralled the

first two rebounds, before Inkster got the ball back and moved the ball away. They were called for traveling with .2 seconds left on the clock, and officials called the game at that point, Brooks said.

"It was a great game for the fans, but we turned the ball over too many times," he said.

"We didn't play very good on the perimeter," he added.

Victor Morris led the team with 17 points. Earvin Mitchell put up 14 points and brought back 11 rebounds. Duane Jones up up 10 points and brought back 10 rebounds.

Inkster played Monroe Tuesday night, but the outcome of that game wasn't known at press time. The winner takes on

the winner of the Romulus and Dearborn game Friday night at Romulus. Dearborn shocked Belleville Friday night, upsetting the number one seed.

"It's a shock, but Dearborn is a good team," Brooks said. "They're not really a number four seed, because there was a three-way tie."

As for the Vikings, Brooks said he hopes the team will be able to handle whoever they have to face. It's their first time this far into the playoffs, but he said the team is showing a great deal of composure.

"They're pretty excited, but they're still kind of loose," he said.

"It's the first time ride for them, but as long as they keep pulling out victories, we won't complain."

Northville loses in title bid

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Northville Mustangs fell short of their quest for a division title last week when they met Livonia Franklin in the championship game.

Franklin came out strong against the Mustangs and eventually took a 59-53 victory.

"They deserved to win it," said Northville Coach Darrel Schumacher.

The Patriots took a 16-8 lead after the first quarter, and a 29-22 lead at the half.

Northville battled back, getting to 43-40 at the end of the third quarter, but a 16-13 fourth quarter spelled doom for the Mustangs.

"We couldn't get it to be a one possession game," said Schumacher. "They kept just out of reach."

Roger Garfield led the Mustangs with 15 points on the night. Adam Konst put up nine and Scott McNeish contributed eight.

The Mustangs took on Walled Lake Western on Friday, and were looking for a second place finish. It turns out they could have tied for first with a victory, but the Warriors proved too much for them, too, 68-47.

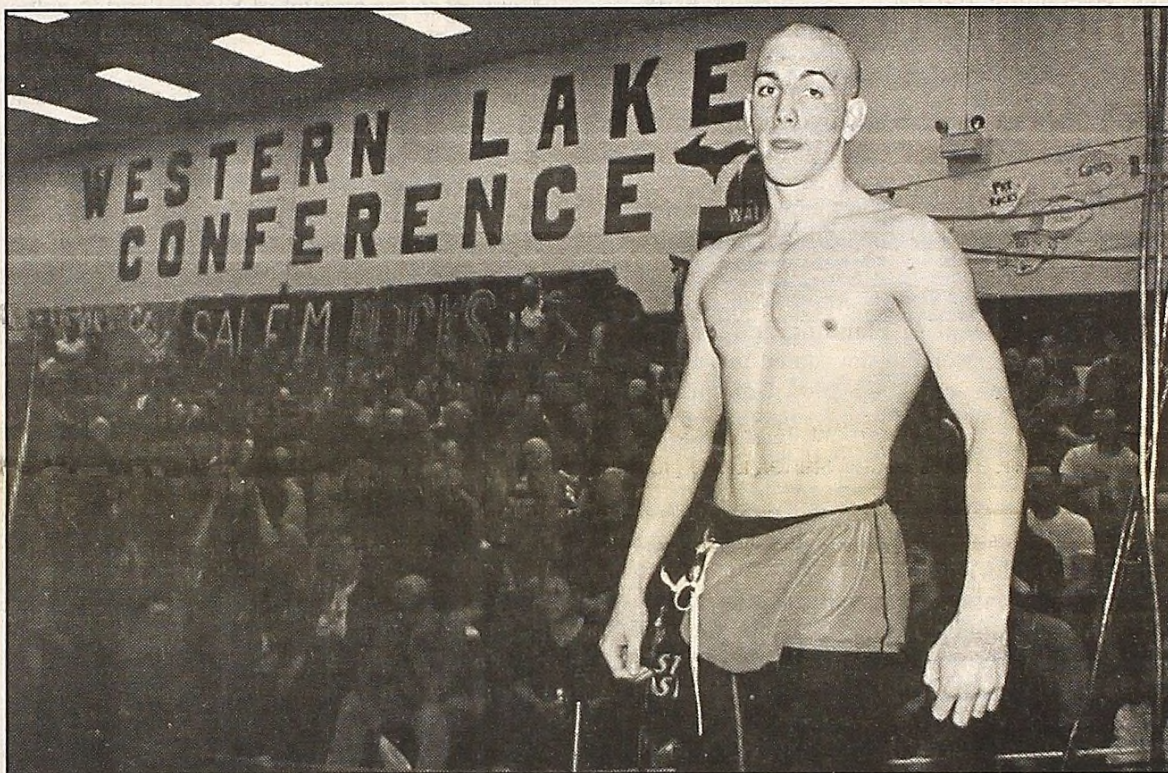
"They were hitting everything," said Schumacher.

Walled Lake outscored the Mustangs 15-10 in the first quarter and had expanded their lead to 32-18 at half time. Northville got it back to eight points, 45-33, at the end of the third quarter, but never got any closer.

Jeff Varley led the Mustangs with 13 points on the night.

"He had an outstanding night," said Schumacher.

McNeish put up 10 points, Garfield and Chris Jacobs put up six apiece.



Strong finish

Joe Lunn of Northville was one of the big winners during the Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) conference meet last week. Lunn won the 200-meter freestyle and the 500-meter freestyle. Canton's Joe Le earned top honors in the 50-meter freestyle and the 100-meter freestyle, and Salem's Nick Dixon won the 200 meter individual medley. Salem won the event, followed by Canton and then Northville.

Chiefs fall in 1st round hockey tournament

The Canton Chiefs men's hockey squad ran into an Ann Arbor Huron team that was stronger, faster and, in the end, better — at least on Monday night during the first round of post season play.

The River Rats topped the Chiefs 5-2 to put a damper on the breakout season for the Canton hockey club.

"They're a really good team," said Canton Coach Dan Abraham. "They earned the win."

The River Rats jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period and were up by three when the Chiefs got on the board from a goal by Mitch Wolfe. Matt Oliver added one in the third but the River Rats, with only three losses on the year, proved too much for Canton.

Abraham said the team had a good season though. They finished a respectable 15-10, which

is even more impressive considering they started the year at 3-6. They went 12-3 through January and earned their first first place finish in their division.

"I'm especially happy with the senior class this year. We had a good group with good leadership," Abraham said. "It's a great way to leave the program, with a successful season."

The Chiefs were frustrated last week in their bid for the league championship when they lost to Livonia Stevenson, 4-1. They came back from that to top Walled Lake Western on Friday, which gave them a 5-1 record in their division, and sole possession of first place.

They won that game, 7-2.

"We expected to win the game, but we needed the victory to clinch first," Abraham said. Ryan McKendry put the Chiefs on the board with a goal at the 9:33 mark. Then Dave Commiskey

took over. He scored three straight goals to earn a hat trick on the night, and then passed the scoring off to Oliver, Matt Gabriel and Kyle Tollison. The Chiefs had it up to 5-0, and then 7-1 before the game ended at 7-2.

Abraham said he obviously would've liked to play further in the post season, but he was satisfied with the way the season ended. Canton went on a 12-3 run in January as the team coalesced into an effective unit.

"They guys never got too down when we were losing," he said. "We always felt like we were in the game, even when we were one or two goals back."

In the end, they were, and it translated into a 15-win season, the most ever for the four-year-old varsity club.

"We were the type of team that outworked our opponents," he said. "That's where our success came from."

Wayne sends 2 to fight for state title

Scott Spielman
Editor

There's an old song by Meatloaf that opines: "Two out of three ain't bad."

It could be the theme song for the Wayne Memorial Zebras this week, who will send two of their three regional wrestlers on to the state competition in March.

Tim Hammer (130) and Steve Wallace (171) qualified for the state competition but Rex Fugaban was still hampered by some lingering injuries, according to Wayne Coach Tony Venturini.

Wallace starting the tournament by sticking Pickney's Nick Rua to the mat and then decided Ryan Coulter from Bedford.

That set up the final match, a rematch between Wallace and Eric Chambers from John Glenn. It was a close match when the two met last week in the districts, with Wallace coming out on top. Speculation since then was that Chambers would get some revenge this weekend.

Not so, Venturini said.

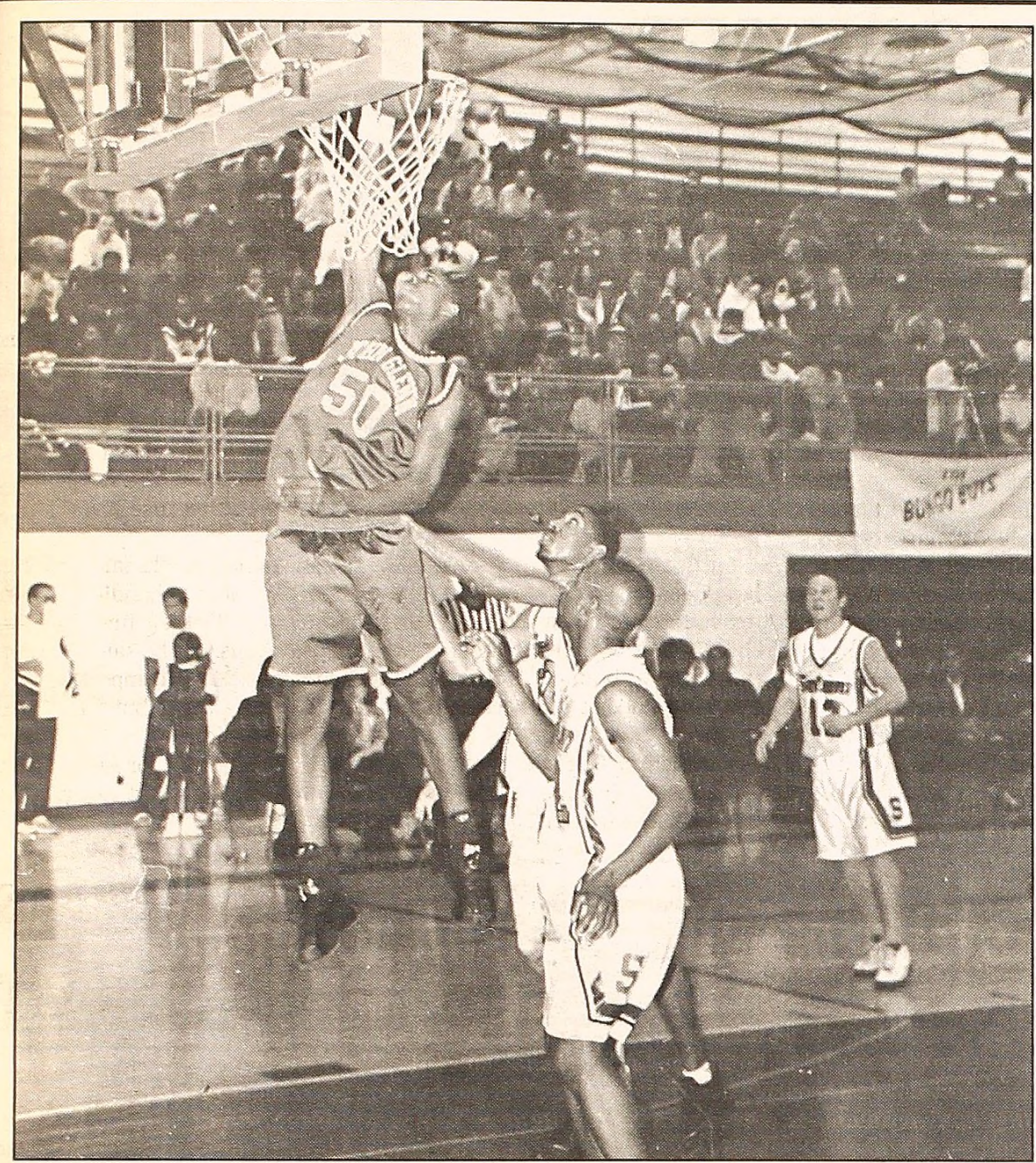
"(Wallace) stepped it up from last week," Venturini said. He went out there and just mopped it up." The final match score was 17-4.

Hammer also wrestled well n the day. He fell to Salem's Mike Goethe, 5-2 but rebounded to take Tim Mulroy of John Glenn, 8-3. He won his final match 19-4.

"We couldn't believe he wrestled the way he did," he said.

Fugaban had less luck. Still bothered by a sore wrist and the lingering effects of knee surgery, he fell to his first two opponents, Venturini said.

"We were happy he made it to regionals with how beaten up he's been," Venturini said. "If he would've been 100 percent, he would've gone all the way."



Hang time

John Glenn and Salem will face off in a district rematch Friday night. Last week, the Rockets topped the Rocks, who were hampered without the presence of their star starter, Dave Hoskins.

GMAC Factory Ordered Sale

Carnahan Chevrolet has been chosen to sell at liquidation prices
400 GM and Other Used Vehicles for Only \$39*

Last months used car sale was so successful that Carnahan Chevrolet is doing it again. They have over 800 vehicles in inventory but only have room for 400 cars. This Monday, February 24th through Saturday, March 8th, Carnahan Chevrolet will have these trade-ins, lease returns and other used vehicles **on sale for thousands below market value** and pass those savings on to their customers.

"Our lenders have asked us to sell this inventory immediately. If that means selling these vehicles at or below wholesale, then that is what we will do" Wayne Carnahan, owner of Carnahan Chevrolet said.

GM cars and trucks are among the best bargains in the industry. GMAC often disposes of these vehicles to dealers at reduced prices, allowing dealers to resell them for full book value. But bargain hunters should take this advantage of this event; GMAC has selected Carnahan Chevrolet in Ypsilanti, to be the official liquidation site for 400 of these fantastic deals.

These 400 vehicles have been obtained at astronomical savings from trade-ins, auctions and other sources. Every used car, truck or SUV will be made available to Carnahan customers for just a \$39 acquisition fee and then you make your regular monthly payments. It's that easy.

To make this blow out sales event easier, we'll mark down almost every type and price range of vehicle, from 4x4s, SUV's, Pick-ups to basic cars. With the number of pre-owned vehicles we have at an all-time high, chances are we will have what you are looking for in stock and ready to take home.

Carnahan Chevrolet's customers will receive prompt service and the best financing terms available. **We will have over \$3 million in financing available for this sale, so we should be able to arrange financing for just about anyone** who has a job, even if your past credit history isn't the best.

If you love a bargain then what you've been waiting for is here, Monday February 24th through Saturday March 8th, in Ypsilanti. Every used vehicle is just \$39* and then you start making your regular monthly payments. You won't find a better or easier way to save huge money on a terrific used vehicle.

All used car trade-ins will receive a **guaranteed minimum of \$2000**. Customers should bring their title or payment book to help with immediate delivery of their vehicle. The sale ends on Saturday, March 8th at 3:00 p.m. For any questions call (734) 481-0210 and ask for the used car department.

* \$39 acquisition fee, plus tax, title and fees, with approved credit, deficit equity will be added to the amount financed, subject to lenders final approval.
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Canton hopes to rebuild wrestling next year

Scott Spielman
Editor

This season, the Canton Chiefs wrestling squad may have competed under the Murphy's Law of 'whatever can go wrong, will go wrong.'

If so, it certainly extended into the individual regional competition on Saturday, when their lone representative, Ryan Webb, failed to make the cut to head to state competition.

Webb had been fighting a virus all week, according to Canton Coach Casey Randolph, that left him two pounds under his regular weight.

Even so, he put up a strong show in his first match, when he beat Belleville's Steve Bray, 8-1.

That set up a match with Josh Churella of Novi, a returning state qualifier.

"He tore us up," Randolph said. "He's one of the best in all the state, but we still wrestled him tough."

Since Canton is losing only three seniors, Randolph said the team would learn from their experiences this year. Webb will be a star to build a successful program around, he said.

Webb then lost a close match to Woodhaven's Rudy Wierech, 8-5.

"I thought he was going to qualify," Randolph said. "He's good enough to make it."

Webb, a sophomore, ended up with a record of 31-10 on the year, including two double overtime matches that he avenged later in the year, Randolph said.

"I was proud of him and the season he had," Randolph

said. "He was a great leader for only being a sophomore."

Since Canton is losing only three seniors, Randolph said the team would learn from their experiences this year. Webb will be a star to build a successful program around, he said.

It's Webb's first solid year on the varsity program. He transferred in from Belleville, where he only wrestled a few varsity matches.

"I look for a huge turnaround next year," Randolph said. "We won't be blown out like we were this year. We'll be competitive."

Randolph said the kids wrestling club he started last month has about 30 members, which will provide future varsity stars. One of them, an eighth grader named Corey Philps, will probably make the team as a freshman next year. Randolph said he's been impressed with the youngster, who has defeated all comers.

"He could step in as a freshman and really make some noise," Randolph said.

Chiefs fall to Churchill, but top Franklin, 51-38

Scott Spielman
Editor

Last week proved the old adage that any team can beat any other team on any given day.

For the Canton Chiefs basketball team, that meant giving up a victory to Livonia Churchill and snatching one away from Livonia Franklin.

Last Tuesday the Chiefs visited Churchill, who were 0-18 on the season, and in search of their first victory. They got it, 54-47.

"They really wanted it," said Canton Coach Jeremy Rheault. "They played well and we didn't play very sharp."

The Chiefs were hampered with a few injuries. Starter Andy Cortelini was unable to play for Canton.

"We were sluggish," Rheault said. "We didn't play very well."

Steve Thornton led the Chiefs with 14 points.

Friday, the Chiefs continued their Livonia tour with a stop at the division champions' home turf, Franklin High School.

They rode a strong fourth quarter into an upset victory, 51-38. They Chiefs were 10 of 14 from the line in the fourth quarter, where the bulk of their scoring occurred.

Franklin edged Canton in the

first quarter, 12-11. Both teams put up a scant eight points in the second quarter, so Franklin had a one-point lead going into half-time. Canton erased that to force a 28-28 tie going into the fourth quarter, according to Rheault.

The Chiefs poured it on in the final frame, outscoring the Patriots 23-10 to seal the victory. They were helped out by aggressive Patriot plays that sent them to the free throw line, where they were nearly unstoppable.

"We handled their zone and forced them to foul us and put us on the line," Rheault said. "That's where we won the game."

D. J. Bridges led the Chiefs

with 17 points. Matt Paye contributed nine points, all of them three pointers. Thornton had seven, as did Maurice Griffin. Griffin scored all seven of his points in the fourth quarter, where he was five of six.

The Chiefs play Stevenson at home on Friday and begin district play on Wednesday.

"We have a nice break," Rheault said.

"We want to get healthy and certainly better. We've been defending well, but we need to get some scores."

"If we're healthy going into the districts, I think it'll give us more options," he said.

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